

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15215 230444Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 CA-01 CPR-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PPT-01 /037 W
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P R 230429Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1249
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15215

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN PGOV GE GW BQG
SUBJECT: US-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION: "CIRCLE
OF PERSONS" APPROACH

REF: STATE 209824

1. WE SHARE THE HOPE THAT THE PROPOSED "CIRCLE OF
PERSONS" APPROACH WILL END THE CURRENT DEADLOCK ON
THE US/GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
THE DEPARTMENT WISHES THAT WE WAIT TO TAKE THE ACTION
IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTEL UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT HAS
APPROACHED THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD BE
PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY REACTION FROM THE FRG
EMBASSY AS TO THE PROPOSED TEXT IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF
REFTEL.

2. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTY THAT WE CAN FORESEE
WITH THE TEXT IS THE USE OF THE WORD "CITIZEN." WHILE
THE FRG HAS THE CONCEPT OF TWO GERMAN STATES IN ONE
GERMAN NATION, THE FRG HAS APPARENTLY NOT
APPLIED THE ANALAGOUS CONCEPT IN ORDER TO ADMIT OF
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TWO GERMAN CITIZENSHIPS AND ONE GERMAN NATIONALITY.
FROM SPEAKING OF THIS AS A THEORETICAL CONCEPT WITH
FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HERE IN RECENT MONTHS, IT
APPEARS THERE IS A DIVISION BETWEEN THOSE WHO
REGARD THE CONCEPT AS AN ACCEPTABLE ONE AND THOSE WHO
TAKE A HARDER LINE AND REFUSE TO ADMIT, OFFICIALY AT
LEAST, THAT THERE IS ANYTHING BUT GERMAN RPT GERMAN

NATIONALITY. THEY SPEAK OF "RESIDENTS" (NOT CITIZENS) OF THE FRG AND THE GDR RESPECTIVELY, ALL OF WHOM ARE REFERRED TO AS HAVING GERMAN NATIONALITY BUT NO SEPARATE CITIZENSHIP.

3. SHOULD THERE BE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF THE WORD CITIZEN, ONE POSSIBILITY OF REDRAFTING THE LAST FIVE LINES OF THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: "...THIS DATE, CONSULS OF THE GDR WILL HAVE THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES HOLDING GDR PASSPORTS CONTAINING US ENTRY VISAS. NO SUCH PERSON WILL BE FORCED TO SEE CONSULAR OR OTHER OFFICIALS OF ANY OTHER STATE AGAINST HIS OR HER WILL."

4. FOR PURPOSES OF BONN GROUP DISCUSSION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE TEXT OF ANY RELEVANT ARGUMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO USE WITH THE FRG EMBASSY. MEEHAN

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